

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NP

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC,US

SUBJECT: APRIL 19 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. RADIO HANOI QUOTES CHARGE BY VC DEL AT SAIGON
THAT GVN IS SABOTAGING TPJMC IN "BRUTAL INFRINGEMENT
OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES" OF VC MEMBERS BY
CANCELING REGULAR LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH, KEEPING
LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN FROM ATTENDING DELEGATION'S
NEWS CONFERENCES, BARRING CONTRACTORS FROM SUPPLYING
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NEWSPAPERS, AND CUTTING TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION (WP).

2. SAIGON COMMAND SAYS COMMUNIST SABOTEURS DESTROY
TWO SPANS ON SVN'S LONGEST BRIDGE, STOPPING TRAFFIC

ON HIGHWAY 1 NEAR QUI NHON (WP). SVN MIL COMMAND REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE, 40 MILES EAST OF SAIGON, AS COMMUNISTS ATTACK THREE GVN POSITIONS; CLAIMS 78 COMMUNISTS, 8 ARVN KIA. COMMAND ALSO REPORTS CONTINUED HEAVY FIGHTING IN HIGHLANDS NEAR GVN BASE ABANDONED TUES., WITH 17 NVA KIA (AP, SUN; REUTER SAIGON). VNAF FLEW 50 HEAVY REPRISAL RAIDS AGAINST COMMUNIST BASE AT DAK TO NEAR KHMER BORDER (CSM). GVN MIL SOURCES SAY ARVN THROWS TWO REGIMENTS INTO COUNTERATTACK TO RECAPTURE GVN HIGHLANDS BASE ABANDONED TUES. (REUTER SAIGON).

3. SVN SENATOR CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF TRADE UNLESS HE CAN "SATISFACTORILY EXPLAIN" ILLEGAL SALE OF MIL SCRAP LEFT BEHIND BY US FORCES AND SIGNED OVER TO GVN. CHARGES CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE OPERATORS ILLEGALLY EXPORTED SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS WORTH (REUTER SAIGON).

4. REPORTERS SAY GRENADE FIRED FROM M-79 INJURES 15 IN PP. FIGHTING ACROSS CAMBODIA PICKS UP SLIGHTLY FOLLOWING WED. LULL CAUSED BY UNSEASONABLE RAINS. FANK COMMAND SAYS DEFENDERS EXTEND KAMPOT'S PERIMETER (WP).

CHINA

5. REUTER PEKING REPORTS MORE THAN DOZEN MEMBERS OF POLITBURO WENT TO PEKING AIRPORT FRIDAY TO MEET RETURNING TENG HSIAO-P'ING. NY TRIP HAS BEEN "PERSONAL TRIUMPH" FOR TENG, WHO ONLY RETURNED TO PUBLIC LIFE LAST APRIL AFTER YEARS OF POLITICAL DISGRACE. STRONG TURNOUT OF LEADERS SEEN AS DELIBERATE SHOW OF LEADERSHIP UNITY AT TIME WHEN CHINA IS IN THROES OF MASS CRITICISM OF CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO. CHOU EN-LAI HEADED WELCOMING LINE-UP -- VIRTUALLY SAME GROUP THAT SAW TENG OFF TWO WEEKS AGO -- AS TENG RECEIVED FULL CEREMONIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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WELCOME WITH THOUSANDS OF YOUNGSTERS DANCING AND CHANTING SLOGANS.

6. SUN'S WU, IN HK, CITES OPENING OF CANTON SPRING FAIR IN WHICH CIVILIAN CHAO TZU-YANG FILLED PROVINCE'S TWO TOP CIVILIAN POSTS THAT UNTIL RECENTLY WERE HELD BY REGIONAL MILITARY LEADERS. SEES THIS SUPPORTING EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT CHINA'S ONCE OMNIPRESENT MILITARY IS BEING SEPARATED FROM CCP AND GOVT. ADMINISTRATION. CHAO'S PROMOTION WAS FIRST INDICATION THAT CANTON NEW REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER, GEN. HSU SHIH-YU, WAS EXCLUDED FROM TOP PARTY AND GOVT. LEADERSHIP. NONE OF SEVEN OTHER REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS TRANSFERRED

LAST DECEMBER HAS SO FAR BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HOLDING
CIVILIAN POSITION.

JAPAN

7. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO ANNOUNCES GOJ WILL
SIGN CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT IN PEKING SATURDAY
PROVIDING FOR AIR SERVICE BETWEEN TOKYO AND PEKING;
ADDS THAT JAPAN HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SECURE

GRC'S UNDERSTANDING. PACT MUST STILL BE RATIFIED
BY DIET, WHERE PRO-GRC LDP MEMBERS MAY TRY BLOCKING
APPROVAL (REUTER TOKYO). IN EARLIER DISPATCH,
SEIDEN (SUN) IN TOKYO CITES GAIMUSHO STATEMENT THAT
JAPANESE REP WENT TO ROC TO SEEK TAIPEI'S "UNDERSTANDING"
OF IMMINENT AGREEMENT WITH PRC.

8. TO CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, GOJ-PRC AVIATION TREATY
HAS BECOME "GIANT GAME OF BLUFF" BETWEEN TANAKA ON
ONE SIDE AND GRC AND SEIRANKAI GROUP ON THE OTHER.
TOKYO SOURCES FEEL LDP RIGHT WING WILL STOP SHORT OF
WALKING OUT OF CABINET OR BRINGING NO-CONFIDENCE
VOTE ON OHIRA OVER AIR PACT; INSTEAD, THEY SEE RIGHT
WING SETTling FOR SHIFTING WHOLE DEBATE TO PARTY FORUMS
TO ENHANCE FUKUDA'S POSITION AGAINST OHIRA.

9. BUTZ SAYS HE HAS "POLITELY" WARNED JAPAN'S LEADERS
AGAINST BARGAIN HUNTING AROUND WORLD FOR FOOD IF
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THEY WANT ASSURED SUPPLIES FROM US IN TIMES OF SHORTAGE.
USDA SEC. TELLS JOINT LUNCHEON MEETING OF AMERICA-
JAPAN SOCIETY AND AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN JAPAN HE HAS EXPLAINED TO JAPANESE THAT FUTURE
US FARM PRODUCTION WILL BE SUSTAINED ONLY BY MARKET
FORCES AND NOT BY USG STOCKPILE PURCHASES. BUTZ
ALSO SAYS THAT IF JAPAN AND OTHER ASIAN STATES WISH
TO CONTINUE EXPORTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MANUFACTURED
GOODS TO US, THEY SHOULD CONTINUE BUYING US FOOD
(AP WP, SUN).

10. JAPANESE NEGOTIATOR AT 25-NATION GENEVA DISARMA-
MENT CONFERENCE SAYS US AND SOVIET MUST CEASE ALL
NUCLEAR TESTING IF ANY SALT AGREEMENT IS TO BE MEANINGFUL.
CONTENDS SALT AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN MUST PROCEED
SIDE-BY-SIDE, AND LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS MUST BE
MADE IN TERMS OF BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY (UPI, WP).

11. TWO JAPANESE ANTI-COMMUNISTS HAND GAIMUSHO OFFICIALS
STATEMENT CALLING FOR OHIRA'S RESIGNATION AND PROTESTING
CAA TALKS WITH PRC; PROTESTERS THEN RACED THROUGH
MINISTRY SETTING OFF THREE SMOKE BOMBS. PRC AMB. CHEN

WAS IN MINISTRY AT TIME, AND HIS JAPANESE POLICE BODY-GUARDS CAUGHT DEMONSTRATORS (AP, WP).

12. CONSORTIUM OF SIX JAPANESE FIRMS STUDIES POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING 132,000-TON-A-YEAR ALUMINUM SMELTER IN ALABAMA FOR REVERE COPPER (WSJ).

13. CHITRIB'S NICK POULOS REPORTS CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS BANKER, ROGER ANDERSON, HOLDING OPTIMISTIC VIEWS ABOUT JAPAN'S ECON PROSPECTS DESPITE RESOURCE PROBLEMS. BACK FROM JAPAN TRIP TO OBSERVE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BANK'S BRANCHES THERE, ANDERSON OBSERVED THAT THE JAPANESE "HAVE AN AMAZING RESILIENCE AND CONSIDERABLE ABILITY TO ADJUST QUICKLY TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCE," AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT JAPAN "WILL CONTINUE IN THE VANGUARD" OF INDUSTRIAL NATIONS.

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14. WP BANGKOK REPORT SAYS RTG CABINET HAS REJECTED SOVIET OFFER OF 10 SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATES OF LEADING THAI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. DECISION REFLECTS OLD POLICY OF FORBIDDING THAI STUDENT'S ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIPS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

15. RESTON (NYT) OBSERVES WORLD LEADERS INCREASINGLY TURNING TO HAK FOR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT AS PRES. BECOMES POLITICALLY WEAKER. "WHEN IN DOUBT, SEE HENRY," IS BECOMING A COMMON OCCURRENCE, INDICATING THAT DOUBTS ARE RELATED TO UNSTABLE AND UNPREDICTABLE POLITICAL SITUATIONS IN SEVERAL CAPITALS. CITES TENG HSIAO-PING'S VISIT AS ILLUSTRATING CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL CONFUSION. PEKING WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING TO PRES. AND WHETHER IT CAN RELY ON AGREEMENTS REACHED BY PRES. IN PEKING AND SHANGHAI. WASHINGTON WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CHINA, AND IS MUCH MORE WORRIED THAN IT LETS ON ABOUT THE DANGER OF SINO-SOVIET WAR. THE DOMINANT PERSONALITIES AND TONE OF PRC DIPLOMACY ARE CHANGING. CHOU SEEMED TO BE THE INFORMING MIND AND THE DECISIVE VOICE WHEN NIXON VISITED PEKING; HE DEALT WITH PRACTICAL DETAILS AND ESTABLISHED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HAK. BUT MESSAGES FROM PEKING TO WASHINGTON NOW COME DIRECTLY FROM MAO THROUGH DIFFERENT ENVOYS. ON LAST VISIT TO PEKING, HAK FOUND THAT IT WAS MAO WHO WAS DEFINING, NOT MERELY THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHINA AS BEFORE, BUT THE POLICY OF CHINA ON TAIWAN,

SEA, EUROPE, JAPAN AND ATOMIC WEAPONS. CHOU REMAINS PREMIER BUT HE SEEMS TO BE LESS PROMINENT NOW AND REFERENCES TO HIM IN DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATION ARE POLITELY IGNORED BY CHINESE DIPLOMATS. WHILE IN NY, TENG INSISTED

THAT CHINA'S CAUTIOUS POLICY OF ACCOMMODATION WITH US REMAINED THE SAME AND WANTED TO BE ASSURED THAT WASHINGTON FELT THE SAME WAY, BUT CHOU'S NAME AND ROLE WERE SELDOM MENTIONED. WASHINGTON WONDERS ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL HIS. HAK IS TOO SHREWD AND EXPERIENCED TO MAKE POLICY WITH A MAN INSTEAD OF A COUNTRY, BUT HE PLACED GREAT RELIANCE ON CHOU'S MODERATION AND HISTORICAL VISION. THE PHILOSOPHIC AND HISTORICAL SWEEP OF CHOU'S MIND OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED HAK, BUT OTHER NO. 2 MEN IN CHINA, LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO, DISAPPEARED, AND NOW EVEN CHOU SEEMS TO BE LOSING HIS INFLUENCE AND CHANGING HIS TUNE. RECENTLY HE MOCKED PRES' FAVORITE PROMISE OF A "GENERATION OF PEACE" AND ARGUED THAT "SO LONG AS IMPERIALISM EXISTS, REVOLUTION AND WAR ARE INEVITABLE."

16. DANIEL TRETIK, CHINESE POLITICS TEACHER AT YORK U (TORONTO) AND CHAIRMAN OF US COMMITTEE FOR NEW CHINA POLICY, IN NYT OP-ED ARTICLE URGES US ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC. SAYS CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS, UNLIKE SIX MONTHS AGO, INDICATE THEY ARE NOW NOT VERY INTERESTED IN SUCH ISSUES AS MFN TREATMENT, FROZEN ASSETS AND HUGE TRADE IMBALANCE; THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. THESE SOURCES FEEL THEY HAVE LIVED UP TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, BUT US HAS NOT. THEY KNOW THAT FAILURE TO OFFICIALLY NORMALIZE RELATIONS MAY SEVERELY AFFECT NOT ONLY SINO-US RELATIONS BUT CHINESE DOMESTIC POLITICS AS WELL. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL RECOVERIES SINCE ENDING OF GPCR AND WHO HAVE BEEN ARCHITECTS OF FOREIGN POLICY SINCE THEN, ESPECIALLY TOWARD US, WILL BE PLACED IN DIFFICULT POSITION IF US FAILS TO RECIPROCATE IN EXTENDING FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. CHINESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS AND THEIR US COUNTERPARTS KNOW THAT MAN WHO WILL BE VINDICATED IF RECOGNITION OCCURS, BUT CONDEMNED IF IT DOES NOT, IS CHOU AND HIS SUBORDINATES IN FM. CHOU WORKED DILIGENTLY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, AND US BETWEEN 1971 AND 1973 RECIPROCATED IN IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC WAYS, UNTIL ESTABLISHMENT OF USLO AND PRCLO. HOWEVER, CHINESE AND SOME AMERICANS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH TWO COUNTRIES' TIES FEAR THAT RELATIONSHIP MAY PROGRESS NO FURTHER. SHOULD STALEMATE BE MADE CONCRETE, CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN CHINESE SOCIETY HOSTILE

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TO CHOU AND TWO NATIONS' RECONCILIATION MAY COME
TO FORE AND RAISE PRICE FOR RECOGNITION BEYOND WHICH
US WILL BE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO GO. NIXON ADMIN

FEELS IT CANNOT AFFORD TO ANTAGONIZE GOP RIGHT WING
BY RECOGNIZING CHINA NOW WHILE IMPEACHMENT A POSSIBILITY.
BUT PRC LEADERSHIP PLACED ITS BET ON ADMIN TO COME
THROUGH WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. SHOULD
US NOT ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY, RELATIONS WILL
PROBABLY NOT GO FORWARD AND IMPACT ON CHINESE DOMESTIC
LEADERSHIP AND ITS POLICIES MAY BE IRREPARABLE.

17. IN ANOTHER OF SERIES ON NVN DATELINED HANOI,
SUN'S PARKS REPORTS THAT WITH TAUT WAR DISCIPLINE
RELAXED, NVN ATTEMPTING TO COPE WITH DIFFICULT SOCIAL
PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN FESTERING FOR A DECADE.
SOME OF THE MORE WORRISOME PROBLEMS: SHARPLY RISING
COST OF FOOD AND CONSUMER GOODS, PARTICULARLY ON FREE
MARKET, DUE TO SHORTAGES; GROWING SERIOUSNESS OF PETTY
CORRUPTION, EXTORTION AND BRIBERY; INCREASE IN VIOLENT
CRIMES; HOUSING SHORTAGE; SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN
VITAL SECTORS OF ECONOMY; WAR VICTIMS NUMBERING IN
THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS. THESE AND SIMILAR SOCIAL
PROBLEMS LED NHAN DAN TO DECLARE THAT "LA DOLCE VITA
IS GRADUALLY ROTTING NORTH VIETNAMESE SOCIETY," AND
NHAN DAN EDITOR HOANG TUNG, TO COMMENT IN INTERVIEW
THAT "THERE ARE ALWAYS SOCIAL PROBLEMS AFTER A WAR.
OURS ARE QUITE SERIOUS, QUIT

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